

Appl. No. 09/693,709
Amdt. dated Oct. 5, 2004
Amendment to Office action of Aug. 3, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office action of August 3, 2004, claims 40-42 and 44-46 were allowed, claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected and claims 2-5, 9 and 47 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 6-8 are canceled and claims 2-4, 9 and 47 are amended.

On page 2 of the Office action, claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dishman et al. (US 6,181,450). Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, claims 1 and 6-8 are canceled herewith to expedite prosecution and allowance of the remaining claims.

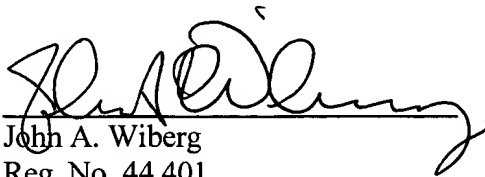
On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-5, 9 and 47 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Claims 2-4, 9 and 47 are amended herewith to so include the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 2-5, 9 and 47 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 2-5, 9, 40-42 and 44-47.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: October 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


John A. Wiberg
Reg. No. 44,401
Attorney for applicant

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 W. Madison, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100